

10 January 1985

Goetz in the media spotlight

NEW YORK

Vigilante

Hounded by reporters and autograph-seekers and rating mention at a presidential news conference, confessed subway gunman Bernhard Hugo Goetz spent a second day free on bail today as one of his victims lay in a coma.

Goetz, 37, who has described himself as a self-employed electronics specialist, is charged with shooting four teenagers who harassed him on a subway train and asked him for \$5 Dec. 22.

One news report said Goetz had top government clearance to work on electronic systems for nuclear weapons.

One of his victims, Daryl Cabey, was paralyzed by a bullet and fell into a coma Wednesday at St. Vincent's Hospital, where he was in critical condition today.

A hospital spokesman today said Cabey remains in a coma in the intensive care unit where he is breathing with the aid of a respirator. Cabey is also suffering from pneumonia and empyema, an infection in the chest cavity, spokesman Dan Sorrenti said. The spokesman said Cabey is responding well to treatment for the infection and his vital signs were stable.

A grand jury considering an indictment against Goetz will be kept informed of Cabey's condition if relevant, a spokeswoman for Manhattan District Attorney Robert Morgenthau said.

If Cabey dies, charges of attempted murder and illegal weapons possession against Goetz could be upgraded to include murder.

Goetz remained silent at a court appearance Wednesday as a crush of reporters jammed into Criminal Court for a look at the man who has been compared with the vigilante in the movie "Death Wish."

The routine hearing was to determine whether Goetz should be held during the grand jury investigation. Judge Jay Gold granted prosecutors an adjournment until Jan. 16 and continued Goetz' \$50,000 bail.

Goetz paid the \$50,000 Tuesday and was released after more than a week in custody.

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Television station WNBC-TV reported that the federal government had issued him "astro-clearance" for work on electronics calibrations systems in nuclear weapons, which could include guidance apparatus on nuclear missiles.

The station, quoting unidentified sources, did not say if Goetz still had the clearance. It said Goetz was a contract employee for a U.S. intelligence agency and his clearance would give him access to secret documents on weapons.

Its sources said he had to be investigated to determine loyalty and stability to get the clearance, believed issued by a defense intelligence agency or the CIA.

Goetz' lawyer, Frank Brenner, declined to discuss the report or his client's occupation.

WNEW-TV tailed Goetz from Manhattan to Union, N.J., where he ate at a diner and was immediately asked for his autograph. Owner Jimmy Mikros called Goetz "a hero" and one waitress said, "I hope he runs for president."

The station said one of its editors and a New York Post editor met with Goetz for 35 minutes, but the station issued only the following statement by Goetz:

"I owe the people of New York a statement and I am thinking of doing that. I hope something good will come from this incident."

President Reagan, responding to reporters' questions in Washington, said, "I think we can all understand the frustration of people who are constantly threatened and feel that law and order is not particularly protecting them."

However, he said, "I think we all realize there is a breakdown of civilization if people start taking the law in their own hands."